

# Accountability

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## 4 Canaanite Women

This is an overview of the four women in the ancestral line of Jesus: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Uriah's Wife, Bathsheba. This class will take place in two parts.

### **Where are we in history?**

Let's quickly notate where we are in history. The book of Joshua takes place right after Moses died and shows us God's faithfulness to his covenant with the Israelites— the goal is to bring them into the land he promised to Abraham. This book points to the importance of covenant obedience ((agreement), (to follow order)).

At the start of the book, Joshua is appointed as Israel's new leader (A new Moses). He commands obedience to the covenant, sends spies into the land, and brings the people of Israel through the waters of the Jordan River. There Joshua runs into a heavenly commander who makes it clear that the battles that will unfold are not about Israel versus other nations but about God fulfilling his promise to the family of Abraham. Unfortunately, the people of Israel learn the hard way to walk in covenant faithfulness (loyalty, fidelity).



There are a few choice moments in this book that I love because they connect the previous stories for God's people. Literally, Joshua walks the people of Israel across the Jordan, and just like the Red Sea God parts the river Jordan for the people of Israel and the Ark of the Covenant. Joshua is told by an Angelic warrior to go into the land of Jericho and take all who live, leave no survivors, and as for the plunder you gather do not keep it. This was not a complete genocide you might imagine because there are people like Rahab and her family who

repudiate their pagan practices and turns to God but this reminds me of Noah and the ark. As before God washes the land to clear it of all who are engaged in sinful and unrighteous living.

### **Joshua 2 (MSG)**

*1. Then Joshua, son of Nun, secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.*

### **Rahab was a woman who lived in between life.**

Literally, in between, she lived in the walls of the city of Jericho not accountable to anyone but she choose to recognize her family. Rahab was a Canaanite, the Canaanites descended from Noah's grandson, Ham. They were considered the vilest, wicked, and idolatrous people on earth at that day – large in physical stature, brutal in battle, and heartless in their treatment of the

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captors, but they did fear the God of Israel.

*2 The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house because they have come to spy out the whole land."*

The two men found refuge in the house of Rahab the harlot, which backed up to the outer wall of the city. When the authorities discovered the intentions of the men and their whereabouts, they asked Rahab to reveal them. Instead, Rahab hid the spies, lied to the messengers as to when the men were at her house, and then sent the king's messengers on a worthless pursuit. Rahab then told the two men she knew their God had given the Israelites the land of Canaan, for she had heard what He had already done for them since leaving Egypt. Rahab said everyone was in fear because of the mighty things God had done for the Israelites, but she was the only one to confess: "For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on the Earth beneath." In exchange for their safety, the spies promised Rahab no harm would come to her, or to her family.



*4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." 6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the rooftop)*

The news of how the God of Israel had miraculously delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery spread across the land. That news frightened the Canaanites because they knew Israel's God had promised the land they were living on to Abraham and his descendants forever. According to Genesis 10, and Numbers 34, the land of Canaan included Judea, Samaria, Lebanon, Israel, parts of Jordan and Syria; from the Red Sea to the Nile River; from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River.

*8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, "I*

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*know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. **10** We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea[a] for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.[b] **11** When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.*

### **The sixth chapter of Joshua covers the battle of Jericho:**



The city of Jericho was enclosed by an earthen rampart with a 12-15' high retaining wall at its base, a 6' thick, 26' high mud-brick wall at the bottom of the rampart, and a 6' thick, 45' high mud-brick wall at the top. As the Israelites marched around this wall once a day for six days, God was showing them it was humanly impossible for them to overcome that massive wall by any military method. In Joshua 5:13-15, Joshua said he encountered a strange soldier who identified Himself as "The Commander of the army of the Lord." Since angels are not to be worshiped, and Joshua fell on his face before this soldier, we can conclude this was a Christophany – a human manifestation of the Preincarnate Christ, who had come to lead the invasion of Jericho. The procession began with the "armed guard," followed by "seven priests carrying trumpets," followed by the priests carrying the

Ark of the Covenant, and then the "rear guard." They marched around the wall once a day for six days, but on the seventh day, they marched around the wall seven times, and on the seventh round, they stopped, the seven priests blew their trumpets, the Israelites shouted, and the walls of Jericho imploded; they fell down flat. According to Joshua 6:2, God had given the city of Jericho to the Israelites before they marched around its walls. Hebrews 11:30 – "By faith, the walls of Jericho fell, after the people marched around them for seven days" – the walls of Jericho fell, not because the Israelites marched, or because they shouted, but because they obeyed the Lord. While the city of Jericho was totally destroyed, Rahab and her family were saved from God's wrath.